

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 21-24 have been canceled, and new claims 25-36 have been added to clarify the invention. The specification has been amended to employ more idiomatic English. No new matter is believed entered by any of the foregoing amendments.

Applicant confirms the election of the method claims and respectfully requests that claims 9-20 be held in abeyance for possible rejoinder and/or for filing of a divisional application.

The rejection of claims 4 and 21 under 35 USC §112 as indefinite, has been rendered moot by cancellation of claims 4 and 21.

Turning to the rejection of claims 1 and 21 under 35 USC §102 as anticipated by Lin (U.S. Patent No. 6,348,301), and claims 2-8 and 22-24 under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Lin in view of Whiting (U.S. Patent No. 6,235,439), these claims have been canceled. However, the Examiner's rejection will be addressed with reference to new claims 25-32.

Independent claims 25 and 32 cannot be anticipated nor rendered obvious by any combination of Lin or Whiting. Lin teaches two hotplates that are each preheated to a predetermined temperature (Column 3, line 64-65). Nowhere does Lin teach that a second temperature is calculated for a second heat treatment using data obtained in the first treatment period as required by Applicant's independent claims. Thus, Lin cannot anticipate or render obvious this feature of claims 25 and 33. Furthermore, Whiting does not supply this missing feature of Lin to render new claims 25-32 obvious. Whiting teaches varying temperature based upon an observed variation in the wafer surface as heating is carried out. (FIG. 2). Nowhere does Whiting teach using temperature data obtained in a first wafer heating period to calculate

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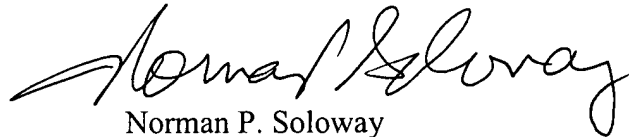
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the second heating period temperature. Thus, no combination of Lin nor Whiting can achieve or render obvious new claims 25-32.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



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